

Appl. No. 09/940955

Amdt dated 4/26/2004

Reply to Final Office action of February 27, 2004

**Proposed Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

1. (withdrawn) A method for processing blood in an apheresis system comprising a blood component separation device and at least one blood passageway associated with said blood component separation device, said method comprising the steps of:
  - introducing blood into said at least one blood passageway;
  - separating said blood into a plurality of blood components;
  - removing at least one of said blood components from said at least one blood passageway;
  - detecting a presence of a first condition associated with said apheresis system, wherein said first condition is a problem relating to at least one of said method and said apheresis system;
  - performing a first prompting step, said first prompting step comprising:
    - prompting an operator of said apheresis system to perform an investigation of said apheresis system in relation to said first condition;
  - performing a second prompting step, said second prompting step comprising:
    - prompting said operator to specify a result of said investigation to said apheresis system.
2. (withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:
  - said detecting step is performed by said apheresis system.
3. (withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said performing a first prompting step comprises:
  - textually indicating said presence of said first condition to an operator of said apheresis system.
4. (withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

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graphically indicating to said operator of said apheresis system a protocol for performing said investigation.

5. (withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said graphically indicating step comprises:  
utilizing text.

6. (withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said graphically indicating step comprises:  
utilizing at least one pictorial.

7. (withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said performing a second prompting step comprises:  
providing a plurality of predetermined results associated with said first condition to said operator.

8. (withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
specifying said result of said investigation; and  
displaying at least one graphic to said operator of said apheresis system indicative of an action to be undertaken by said operator.

9. (withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said displaying step comprises:  
providing text.

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10. (withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 8, wherein first displaying step comprises:

providing at least one pictorial.

11. (withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said at least one blood passageway comprises a blood processing channel and a blood processing vessel, said method further comprising the step of:

disposing said blood processing vessel within said blood processing channel.

12. (withdrawn) A method for processing blood in an apheresis system comprising a blood component separation device, at least one blood passageway associated with said blood component separation device, an operator interface display and at least one sensor, said method comprising the steps of:

introducing blood into said at least one blood passageway and said blood separation device;

separating said blood into a plurality of component types using said blood separation device;

removing at least one of said blood component types from said at least one blood passageway;

monitoring said at least one sensor;

detecting a first condition based on said monitoring step, wherein said first condition is a problem relating to at least one of said method and said apheresis system;

first prompting an operator of said apheresis system to first investigate said apheresis system regarding said first condition; and

second prompting said operator to input data relating to said first investigation to said apheresis system.

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13. (withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 12, wherein said step of first prompting comprises:

textually displaying information on said operator interface display relating to said first condition to said operator of said apheresis system; and

textually displaying on said operator interface display at least one remedial action to be performed by said operator, said remedial action relating to said first condition.

14. (withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 12, wherein said step of first prompting comprises:

graphically displaying information on said operator interface display relating to said first condition to said operator of said apheresis system; and

graphically displaying on said operator interface display at least one remedial action to be performed by said operator, said remedial action relating to said first condition.

15. (withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 12, further comprising the step of:

third prompting an operator of said apheresis system to second investigate said apheresis system regarding said first condition;

fourth prompting said operator to input data relating to said second investigation to said apheresis system.

16. (withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said step of third prompting comprises:

textually displaying information on said operator interface display relating to said first condition to said operator of said apheresis system; and

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textually displaying on said operator interface display at least one remedial action to be performed by said operator, said remedial action relating to said first condition.

17. (withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said step of third prompting comprises:

graphically displaying information on said operator interface display relating to said first condition to said operator of said apheresis system; and

graphically displaying on said operator interface display at least one remedial action to be performed by said operator, said remedial action relating to said first condition.

18. (withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

third prompting an operator of said apheresis system to second investigate said apheresis system regarding a second condition;

fourth prompting said operator to input data relating to said second investigation to said apheresis system.

19. (withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 18, wherein said step of third prompting comprises:

textually displaying information on said operator interface display relating to said first condition to said operator of said apheresis system; and

textually displaying on said operator interface display at least one remedial action to be performed by said operator, said remedial action relating to said first condition.

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20. (withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 18, wherein said step of third prompting comprises:

graphically displaying information on said operator interface display relating to said first condition to said operator of said apheresis system; and

graphically displaying on said operator interface display at least one remedial action to be performed by said operator, said remedial action relating to said first condition.

21. (currently amended) A method for processing blood in an apheresis system comprising a blood component separation device, at least one blood passageway associated with said blood component separation device, an operator interface display and at least one sensor, said method comprising the steps of:

introducing blood into said at least one blood passageway and said blood separation device;

separating said blood into a plurality of component types using said blood separation device;

removing at least one of said blood component types from said at least one blood passageway;

first prompting said apheresis system of the presence of ~~a first~~ an observed condition, said first prompting step being performed by an operator of said apheresis system and wherein said first condition is a problem relating to at least one of said method and said apheresis system;

simultaneously displaying on said operator interface display a plurality of conditions, each condition having at least one remedial action ~~of said condition in response to said prompting step;~~

second prompting said apheresis system to select ~~said first~~ a condition from said plurality of conditions and to perform one of said at least one remedial action from said

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displaying step, said second prompting step being performed by an operator of said apheresis system.

22. (previously presented) A method, as claimed in Claim 21, wherein said step of displaying comprises:

graphically depicting information on said operator interface display relating to said plurality of conditions to said operator of said apheresis system.

23. (previously presented) A method, as claimed in Claim 21, wherein said step of displaying comprises:

textually indicating information on said operator interface display relating to said plurality of conditions to said operator of said apheresis system.

24. (withdrawn) A method for processing blood in an apheresis system comprising a blood component separation device, at least one blood passageway associated with said blood component separation device, an operator interface display and at least one sensor, said method comprising the steps of:

introducing blood into said at least one blood passageway and said blood separation device;

separating said blood into a plurality of component types using said blood separation device;

removing at least one of said blood component types from said at least one blood passageway;

monitoring said at least one sensor;

notifying an operator of said apheresis system of a first condition based on said monitoring step;

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first prompting an operator of said apheresis system to first investigate said apheresis system regarding said first condition; and

second prompting said operator to input data relating to said first investigation to said apheresis system.

25. (withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 24, wherein said step of notifying comprises:

textually displaying information on said operator interface display relating to said first condition to said operator of said apheresis system.

26. (withdrawn) A method, as claimed in Claim 24, wherein said step of third notifying comprises:

graphically displaying information on said operator interface display relating to said first condition to said operator of said apheresis system.

27. (currently amended) A method, as claimed in Claim 21, wherein said step of displaying a plurality of conditions comprises initially displaying a first set of conditions on a first screen and subsequently displaying at least one set of further conditions on a second screen in response to ~~a~~ another prompting from said operator.